

## MINUTES

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room  
John A. Hannah Building  
608 West Allegan  
Lansing, Michigan

March 11, 2014  
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman  
Mr. John C. Austin, President  
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President  
Mr. Daniel Varner, Secretary  
Dr. Richard Zeile, Treasurer  
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, NASBE Delegate  
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny  
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus  
Mrs. Eileen Weiser  
Mr. Craig Ruff, representing Governor Rick Snyder, ex officio

Absent: Mr. Gary Abud, Jr., 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year

### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

#### II. INFORMATIONAL FOLDER ITEM

1. Information on 2012-2013 Carl D. Perkins Consolidated Annual Report

#### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Ulbrich, Varner, Weiser**

**Absent: Zeile**

**The motion carried.**

IV. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mr. Flanagan said Mr. Gary Abud, Jr., will not be attending the Board meeting, because his baby daughter was born the previous day. Mr. Flanagan showed a photo of Gary and the baby.

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education.

Dr. Zeile joined the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

V. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan said that he will be convening a school governance task force.

Mr. Flanagan said there has been speculation that the notice given to the Education Achievement Authority regarding options for placement of schools was related to Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) scores. He said that is not true.

VI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:39 a.m. and convened the Committee of the Whole.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

VII. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

VIII. DISCUSSION ON MICHIGAN SCHOOL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE

Dr. Jeff Guilfoyle, President, Citizens Research Council; Mr. Craig Theil, Senior Research Associate, Citizens Research Council; and Dr. David Arsen, Professor of Educational Administration, College of Education, Michigan State University; presented Discussion on Michigan School Organization and Finance.

Mr. Austin said the State Board of Education is continuing to host presentations from experts of varying perspectives regarding school organization and finance.

Mr. Austin introduced the presenters.

Mr. Theil and Dr. Guilfoyle, shared information via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Discussion followed.

Dr. Arsen shared information via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Discussion followed.

IX. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 11:35 a.m. and reconvened at 11:40 a.m.

X. PRESENTATION OF NEW MODEL POLICY ON REDUCING STUDENT SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

Ms. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent, Administrative and Support Services; and Mr. Kyle Guerrant, Director, School Support Services; presented the New Model Policy on Reducing Student Suspensions and Expulsions.

Ms. Wolenberg said the presentation focuses on a new State Board of Education model policy to reduce the use of suspensions and expulsions. She said with the support of a National Association of State Boards of Education grant, the Michigan Department of Education convened the Michigan School Discipline Task Force. She said Board members Michelle Fecteau, Kathleen Straus and Richard Zeile served on the task force of stakeholders that developed the model policy.

Mr. Guerrant shared information via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included model code of student conduct, cascade of events when children are not allowed to stay in school, resources for training, increasing statewide capacity with restorative justice, funding, committee membership, policy implementation, accountability for student instruction and testing, need for data, teacher focus groups, holistic approach, classroom size, and educating expelled students.

This item will be presented to the Board for approval in May.

XI. PRESENTATION ON HINDU AND INDIAN RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

Dr. Murali Balaji, Director of Education and Curriculum Reform, Hindu American Foundation; and Mr. Venkat Lakshminarayanan, Member, Hindu American Foundation; presented on Hindu and Indian Resources for Schools.

Dr. Balaji shared information on free teacher training materials and resources that are available from the Hindu American Foundation.

XII. DISCUSSION REGARDING CRITERIA FOR GRANT PROGRAM

There were no Board member comments regarding criteria for grant program.

XIII. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole at 12:22 p.m. and reconvened at the Regular Meeting at 1:06 p.m.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **XIV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

1. Ms. Robby Cramer, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ms. Cramer, representing Van Andel Education Institute, shared verbal comments and written information on science and engineering practices used in out-of-school time programming and professional development.
2. Ms. Jennifer Arnswald, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ms. Arnswald, representing Kent Intermediate School District, provided verbal and written information on the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators Title I science online professional development project.
3. Ms. Samantha Suiter, Norfolk, Virginia. Ms. Suiter, representing People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, provided verbal and written information on student dissection choice policies.
4. Ms. Sarah Seror, Westland, Michigan. Ms. Seror shared verbal comments regarding student dissection choice policy.
5. Ms. Melissa Karpel, Alma, Michigan. Ms. Karpel provided verbal comments regarding student dissection choice policy.
6. Ms. Kate Brindle, East Lansing, Michigan. Ms. Brindle provided verbal comments regarding student dissection choice.
7. Ms. Kathy Barker, Grand Blanc, Michigan. Ms. Barker, Director of Special Education, Oakland Schools; also representing Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education, provided verbal comments on special education proposed rules.
8. Ms. Mary Starr, Plymouth, Michigan. Ms. Starr, representing Michigan Mathematics and Science Centers Network, provided verbal comments on Michigan Mathematics and Science Centers.

### **XV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN**

At the request of Mr. Flanagan, Dr. Keesler introduced the following new employees: Alan Thomas and Paula Daniels, Office of Field Services; Elizabeth Cooke, Office of Special Education; and Pietro Semifero, Office of Systems Integration.

### **XVI. RECESS**

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting and reconvened at the Committee of the Whole at 1:42 p.m.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

### **XVII. PRESENTATION ON CITY AND SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP: THE GRAND RAPIDS STORY**

Mayor George Heartwell, City of Grand Rapids; Mr. Schipper Nguyen, 11<sup>th</sup> grade student, City High School; Ms. Hannah Creasey, 11<sup>th</sup> grade student, City High School; and Ms. Tiha Kabir, 12<sup>th</sup> grade student, City High School; presented on City and Schools Partnership: The Grand Rapids Story.

Ms. Ramos-Montigny introduced Mayor Heartwell.

Mayor Heartwell shared information via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Mr. Nguyen, Ms. Creasey and Ms. Kabir shared personal experiences of their participation in the partnership between the city and schools.

Board member discussion included support for programs involving a partnership between the city and school district, after hours recreation activities, funding, Mayor Heartwell's leadership and State of the City address, and reinvention of the school district.

Mr. Ruff left the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

### **XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole and reconvened at the Regular Meeting 2:08 p.m.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **XIX. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

- F. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 11, 2014

**Mr. Varner moved, seconded by Dr. Ulbrich, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 11, 2014.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Fecteau, Straus, Ulbrich, Varner, Weiser, Zeile**  
**Absent During Vote: Austin, Ramos-Montigny**

**The motion carried.**

## XX. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Austin said the Board will continue engaging discussion on school organization and finance. He said it is important and helpful to hear from differing perspectives.

Mr. Austin said he has asked Mr. Flanagan to provide an update on the special education rule making process in his report. He said it is important to provide an environment in which people feel like they are being heard and allowed to participate.

Mr. Austin said with regard to the school turnaround strategy for the state, the Board made a statement supporting the placement of chronically under-performing schools in an entity that is likely to have success. He said there should be an effective range of options including intermediate school districts, other school districts, non-profit organizations and charter schools.

Mr. Austin said the Board will need to determine an effective search process and timeline for hiring the next State Superintendent to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Flanagan's retirement on July 1, 2015. Mr. Austin said some clarification is needed before the process is initiated. Mr. Varner said there a need to get guidance from the Attorney General's Office regarding the Open Meetings Act and the search process, and he is recommending that a meeting with the Attorney General's Office be scheduled as soon as possible. Mr. Flanagan said staff will work toward scheduling a meeting between the full Board and the Attorney General's office.

Mr. Ruff rejoined the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

## XXI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

### Reports

- G. Human Resources Report
- H. Report on the Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services
- I. Report on Modifications to the Previously Approved Mecosta-Osceola Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services
- J. Report on Approval of Request to Change Name of Jackson Community College to Jackson College

### Grants

- H. Report on Grant Awards
  - 1. 2012-2013 Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant Program (Title II, Part B) – Amendment
  - 2. 2013-2014 Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) Grant Program (Title II, Part B) – Initial

3. 2013-2014 Regional Assistance to High Priority Schools – Amendment
4. 2013-2014 Section 22.i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant – Initial
5. 2013-2014 Title I Statewide System of Support Technical Assistance Grant – Amendment

Mr. Flanagan discussed the special education rules process. Dr. Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; and Dr. Eleanor White, Director of Special Education came to the Board table to answer questions.

XXII. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Gary Abud, Jr., 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year, was absent due to the birth of his daughter; therefore, no verbal report was provided.

XXIII. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs, presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley provided an update on legislation regarding turnaround strategies and the Education Achievement Authority, and educator evaluations.

Dr. Ulbrich, Chair of the Board's Legislative Committee, said the Committee met on March 6. Dr. Ulbrich said discussion regarding school finance was put on hold by the Board's Legislative Committee.

Dr. Ulbrich said there are two reports from the Board to the Legislature that are due on April 1. She said the Board's Legislative Committee has discussed the reports and is recommending approval by the full Board.

**Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Varner, that the State Board of Education approve the 2012-2013 Annual Legislative Report for School Improvement Plans, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 26, 2014, and submit the report to the Senate and House Committees on Education.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Ms. Ramos-Montigny moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the 2012-2013 Strict Discipline Academies Report to the Legislature, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 26, 2014, and direct staff to forward the report to the Legislature.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XXIV. CONSENT AGENDA

- M. Approval of Nominations to the Special Education Advisory Committee
- N. Approval of Revised School Improvement Framework and District Improvement Framework Documents
- O. Approval of State Board of Education and Michigan Department of Education Cosponsorship
- P. Approval of Criteria for the National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant \$638,4080

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mr. Varner, that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows:**

- M. (this item was removed from the agenda);**
- N. approve the Revised School Improvement Framework and District Improvement Framework Documents, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated March 5, 2014;**
- O. support the cosponsorship of the School Nutrition Association of Michigan 2014 Annual Conference, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 26, 2014; and**
- P. approve the Criteria for the National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance Grant, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated February 26, 2014.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

XXV. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mr. Varner thanked Mr. Austin for his leadership in arranging presentations on school organization and finance.

Mr. Varner said he appreciated the dissection choice comments during public participation.

Mr. Varner said the Board should have further discussion on turnaround strategy at a future SBE meeting.

Mr. Varner said the National Association of State Boards of Education is offering stipends and applications are due on March 12, 2014.



Ms. Ramos-Montigny distributed invitations to César E. Chávez Social Justice Events on March 20, 2014, in the Grand Rapids area.

XXVI. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Flanagan said Board members may contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee comprised of Mr. Austin, Dr. Ulbrich and Mr. Varner with suggestions for agenda topics.

XXVII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, April 8, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Tuesday, May 13, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)
- C. Tuesday, June 3, 2014 (9:30 a.m.) SBE Retreat
- D. Tuesday, June 17, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)

XXVIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available at [www.michigan.gov/sbe](http://www.michigan.gov/sbe).

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Varner  
Secretary